

REDUCTION OF THE VISCOSITY OF REACTIVE HEAVY BYPRODUCTS  
DURING THE PRODUCTION OF 1,3-PROPANEDIOL

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Abstract of the Disclosure

10 The present invention is an improvement upon  
the process for the production of 1,3-propanediol wherein  
an aqueous solution of 3-hydroxy propanal is formed,  
catalyst, if any, used in said formation is removed from  
the solution, sodium hydroxide is added to the solution  
to neutralize any acid therein such that the pH is at  
least about 5, the neutralized aqueous solution is  
subjected to hydrogenation to produce a crude 1,3-  
15 propanediol mixture which is distilled to produce 1,3-  
propanediol, water, and reactive heavy components. The  
improvement on this process comprises replacing the  
sodium hydroxide with a hydroxide selected from the group  
consisting of ammonium hydroxide, alkali metal hydroxides  
20 other than sodium hydroxide, and alkaline earth metal  
hydroxides to reduce the viscosity of the reactive heavy  
components.